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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,459	11/29/2001	Roland W. Chow	020431.1024	5671

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EXAMINER

PARDO, THUY N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 01/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/998,459

Applicant(s)

CHOW ET AL.

Examiner

Thuy Pardo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-20, 22, 23 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 8, 13, 16, 21 and 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-26 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-20, 22, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Sekitani** US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0004761.

As to claim 1, Sekitani teaches the invention substantially as claimed, comprising:

receiving a first part number [part number, fig. 3; ab] associated with an item, the first part number associated with the item being defined according to a first part numbering scheme [retrieving parts from the stored part information depending on retrieval conditions, 0007 of page 1];

searching a database for one or more second part numbers that are associated with the item and also cross-referenced to the first part number associated with the item, the one or more second part numbers associated with the item being defined according to one or more corresponding second part numbering schemes [0042-0043 of page 3]; and

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in response to identifying the one or more second part numbers associated with the item, searching a database for a third part number that is associated with the item and also cross-referenced to at least one second part number associated with the item, the third part number associated with the item being defined according to a third part numbering scheme, the first part number associated with the item being mapped to the third part number associated with the item through the at least one second part number associated with the item [0038, 0042-0043 of page 3].

However, Sekitani does not explicitly teach identifying part numbers that are associated with previous received part numbers based on part numbering schemes. However, since Sekitani teaches a link information that when a predetermined portion of the assembly drawing is specified, the corresponding drawing and diagram of the part table are also displayed on the screen [see 0042, 0043 of page 3] based on retrieval conditions (or schemes) [0007 of page 1], the feature of identifying part numbers that are associated with previous received part numbers based on part numbering schemes is obvious in the system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time of the invention to have modified Sekitani's system in order to require only a minimum amount of data to be transmitted, thus reducing the amount of time required to retrieve parts.

As to claim 2, Sekitani teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Sekitani further teaches that a part numbering scheme of a corresponding customer [50 of fig. 13; fig. 14]; each second part number comprises a manufacturer part number and each second part numbering

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scheme comprises a part numbering scheme of a corresponding manufacturer [25 of fig. 13; 29 of fig. 14]; and the third part number comprises an internal part number [0046 of page 3] and the third part numbering scheme comprises an internal part numbering scheme of a corresponding seller [0053 of page 4; local service station, fig. 13; fig. 14].

As to claim 3, Sekitani teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Sekitani further teaches that the third part number comprises a universal part number and the third part numbering scheme comprises a universal part numbering scheme [fig. 14; 0061 of page 5].

As to claim 4, Sekitani teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Sekitani further teaches that searching a database for the third part number is performed automatically and independent of user input subsequent to identifying the one or more second part numbers [0072-0073 of pages 5-6].

As to claim 6, Sekitani teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Sekitani further teaches that the first part number is one of a plurality of first part numbers received within a bill of materials (BOM), the method further comprising mapping one or more other first part numbers in the BOM to corresponding third part numbers [inherent in the system, fig. 14].

As to claim 7, Sekitani teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Sekitani further teaches facilitating an electronic commerce transaction involving the item in response to identifying the third part number [inherent in the system, fig. 14].

As to claims 9-12, 14, 15, 17-20, 22, 23, and 25, all limitations of these claims have been addressed in the analysis of claims 1-4, 6, and 7 above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 26 is allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination identifying the one or more manufacturer part numbers associated with the item, searching a database for an internal part number that is associated with the item and also cross-referenced to at least one manufacturer part number associated with the item, the internal part number associated with the item being defined according to a part numbering scheme of a corresponding seller, a second item to item specification mapping the specification information for the item associated with the internal part number to the internal part number, the second item to item specification having a first pointer to information. identifying the item associated with the internal part number and a second pointer to specification information for the item associated with the internal part number, the specification information for the item associated with the internal part number substantially matching the specification information for the item associated with the customer part number, the customer part number being mapped to the internal part number through the at least one manufacturer part number, as set forth in claim 26.

4. Claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 21, and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As to claims 5, 13, and 21, the feature that the first part number is not completely mapped to the third part number in that a plurality of second part numbers are associated with the item, at least some of these second part numbers are cross-referenced to the first part number but not cross referenced to the third part number, and at least some of these second part numbers are cross-referenced to the third part number but not cross-referenced to the first part number; and the method further comprises determining a percentage of second part numbers to which both the first part number and the third part number are cross-referenced; and if the determined percentage is greater than a predetermined value, considering the third part number equivalent to the first part number for purposes of a particular application for the first part number, taken together with other limitations of claims 1, 9, or 17 was not disclosed by the prior art of record.

As to claims 8, 16, and 24, the feature accessing a first item to item specification to map the first part number to specification information for the item associated with the first part number, the first item to item specification having a first pointer to information identifying the item associated with the first part number and a second pointer to the specification information for the item associated with the first part number; and accessing a second item to item specification to map the specification information for the item associated with the third part

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number to the third part number, the second item to item specification having a first pointer to information identifying the item associated with the third part number and a second pointer to specification information for the item associated with the third part number, the specification information for the item associated with the third part number substantially matching the specification information for the item associated with the first part number, taken together with other limitations of claims 1, 9, or 17 was not disclosed by the prior art of record.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy Pardo, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1091. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows: (703) 872-9306 (Official Communication)

and/or:

(703) 746-5616 (*Use this Fax#, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "Draft" communication. Examiner may request that a formal/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions*).

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

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6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

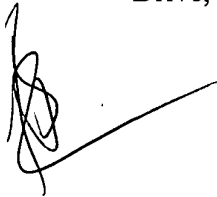
Or:

(703) 308-5359, (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal

Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Thuy Pardo', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thuy Pardo
December 23, 2003